

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants amended the claims as shown in the translation of the Article 34 Amendment in the Annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report for the International application PCT/EP2003/011383. The preliminary amendment is made to avoid multiple dependency and to comply with the US PTO rules. Claims 3, 4, 5, and 8 were amended to avoid multiple dependency. Claim 7 was deleted and replaced with new claims 11 through 16. New claims 9 and 10 depend upon the amended claim 5 and correspond to claim 3 and 4 of the Annexes. In making these revisions care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added and that the claims remain supported by the specification.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,

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